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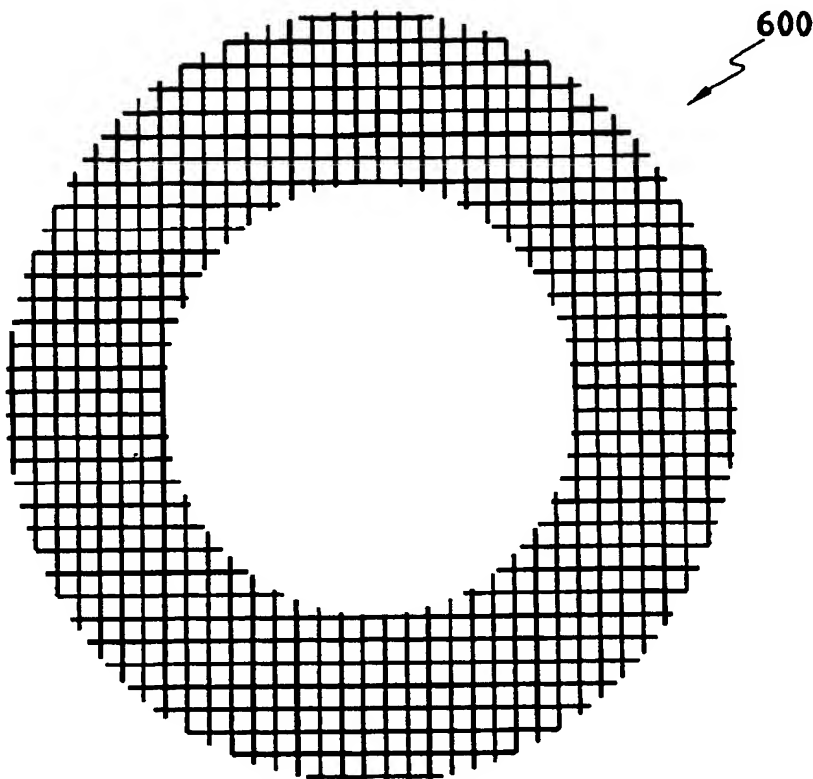
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(54) Title: ONE PIECE SHIM



(57) Abstract: A one-piece or otherwise unitary annular shim member made from a perforated metallic material is used to maintain a space between stacked annular preforms during a manufacturing process, such as densification. The metallic material used preferably can withstand at least the temperatures encountered during densification. The one-piece structure advantageously simplifies the arrangement of the preforms in a process chamber and causes less deformation in the preforms. In one example, the shim member is made from a metallic mesh and may utilize a crimped weave structure.

WO 2004/078406 A3



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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	GB 419 949 A (PERCY HENRY HERRING; G N HADEN & SONS LTD) 19 November 1934 (1934-11-19) page 3, line 42 - page 4, line 12; figure 2	1
A	EP 1 158 568 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC) 28 November 2001 (2001-11-28) column 5, line 57- - column 6, line 1	
A	FR 2 754 813 A (EUROP PROPULSION) 24 April 1998 (1998-04-24) the whole document	
A	US 4 154 322 A (TERAI YOSHIYUKI ET AL) 15 May 1979 (1979-05-15)	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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